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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~25X1
25X1COUNTRY Germany/Soviet ZoneREPORT NO. TOPIC Military Information from Stendal25X1 EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED DATE OF CONTENT 20 to 25 November 1950

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25X1 DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 11 January 195125X1 REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. Between 20 and 25 November 1950, a large-scale turn-over of enlisted personnel was effected in the Stendal (M 53/Y 85) military post. The troops arrived or left aboard regular trains in groups of 20 to 50, either coming from the direction of Magdeburg or leaving toward Magdeburg. the turn-over affected not less than 2,000 men. *
2. About 60 to 70 percent of the troops stationed in the Tauentzien Kaserne on Osterburgerstrasse were affected by the turn-over. The new troops were recruits from the U.S.S.R., 18 or 19 years old. * The recruits were not yet used for guard duty. The number of troops in the Tauentzien Kaserne was estimated at 1,000 to 1,200. No heavy weapons were observed. Most of the new troops wore black-bordered crimson epaulets and only a small percentage wore red-bordered black epaulets. The training activity of the new arrivals corresponded to that formerly undergone by German recruits during the first weeks of military service. Only drill without weapons was observed. At about 2 p.m. on 25 November, about 400 troops were drilling in the barracks yard, whereas on the previous five days not more than 100 troops had been seen at drill. On 25 November, formation drill was practiced for the first time, the troops still being unarmed.
3. The Hindenburg Kaserne on the Stendal-Wittenberge highway was occupied by about 2,000 troops. The turn-over in this installation affected about 2,000 men. * No information was obtained on military activities in the billeting area. At about 4 p.m. on 24 November, a unit of about 150 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets marched into the installation, coming from the direction of Unglingen. A local resident said that the unit had held combat practice with blank cartridges in a patch of woods about 1 1/2 km west of the barracks installation. At about 5 p.m. on the same day, about 50 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets and divided into six groups trained with heavy machine guns in the area between the installation and the railroad embankment. After a short time the unit returned to the barracks installation, carrying unassembled heavy machine guns.

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4. The Albrecht der Baer Kaserne on Scharnhorststrasse quartered about 2,000 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets. About 30 percent of the troops in this installation had been replaced. * The activities of the troops in the billeting area could not be determined. Every morning about 150 soldiers left the installation for the officers' mess and the hospital on Royerstrasse, where they functioned as orderlies during the daytime. They would return at about 11 p.m.

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* Comment. [redacted] reported a turn-over of troops in Stendal in the spring of 1950. [redacted] This process undoubtedly was the replacement of soldiers due for discharge by recruits. The personnel were probably processed through a discharge center and a recruit depot of the Third Shock Army in Magdeburg. However, there have been no indications that such establishments were located in Magdeburg.

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** Comment. The number of troops in the individual barracks installations correspond approximately to that reported [redacted] in September and October 1950. [redacted] The present report indicates that the training of recruits was the principal training feature at the end of November.

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